

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION

Meeting minutes from January 26, 2012

The January 26, 2012 meeting called to order by Butch Woolard at 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds

Roll call of members; Joy Struble, Butch Woolard, Wes McAlpin, Mike Mower, and Sam Nunnally all were in attendance.

Agenda approval: Wes moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Joy. All were in favor.

Previous Minutes: Wes moved to amend the Special meeting minutes from December to reflect the performance evaluation was approved "and delivered to County HR department". Mike seconded the motion. The December minutes were approved as amended and November 16th minutes approved as presented. All members were in favor.

Staff & Guests: Sharon Askelson, Eloise Hill, Ron Thibert, Sean Conrad, and Tom Jentz were present.

Public Comment: Butch asked if any members of the public wished to comment this evening. Eloise Hill, a neighbor of the Fairgrounds, asked that the hedge surrounding the race track be retained in our long term plans as it reduces dust from blowing into their homes considerably. Ron Thibert asked to hear from the new commissioners as to their background and goals with the fairgrounds. The members were unable to respond during public comment.

Election of 2012 Commission Officers: Butch asked for nominations of the Chair position. Joy motioned for Wes to fill the position. Seconded by Sam. Call for other nominations with none heard. Question called and all were in favor. Motion passed. Butch asked for nomination of the Vice Chair position. Sam moved for Joy to fill the position. Seconded by Wes. Butch called for any other nominations with none heard. Vote was called and all were in favor.

Manager's report: Mark reviewed recent activities, current fairground projects, and the December 2011 financial reports. The 2012 Fair theme, "Vote For Fun!" was shared and a discussion about the public interactive aspects was held. The proposed budget for concert entertainment was shared and reviewed. Pricing is recommended similar to the previous year but with a \$2 increase per ticketed event based on the artist cost increases.

Committee reports: Joy will be getting together with County grant writer soon. To-date, their schedules have not been compatible.

Old Business: Facility Planning – the LiDAR topography mapping and utility identification has been completed and map is on file in the office. The slope of the fairgrounds came out as predicted. Lowest point is the SW corner and highest grade is surrounding the Maintenance Shop. A discussion on establishing a planning review group was held. There are concerns over this. It was suggested to set aside one dedicated hour during a regular meeting for a thorough review. Joy recommended setting specific objectives for the group. Discussion was heard. She will work on these

and have a meeting with Wes to review these prior to the February meeting. Joy moved to table the planning group and draft objectives for strategic planning. This will include a group of community figures to contribute to the strategic planning of the Fairgrounds. Mike seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

A RFQ for engineering services is in the final draft stage. Mike volunteered to evaluate responses.

No additional old business was heard.

New Business

Kalispell Growth Plan review: Tom Jentz and Sean Conrad were present to share the Kalispell Growth Plan to the Commission. Tom provided a thorough overview of the process. Kalispell is also working with their Growth Policy update. Several general questions were asked and discussion followed. Asked what the City's perspective of the Fairgrounds was, Tom replied that it represents; an event center, gateway from the West, major generator of interest and activities, opportunity provider. There is a desire for the Fairgrounds to look like we were part of Kalispell.

Lewis Property: The former Lewis house and outbuildings need to be dealt with. Mark recommended the Commission place a value on the structures for determination of surplus or otherwise. He explained if the value was less than \$2,500 it would fall below surplus requirements. Joy moved to put the Lewis house and outbuildings to public bid and let the process determine worth. Mike seconded the motion. Question was called and all were in favor of a public bid.

No additional new business was brought forward or discussed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm was made by Sam, seconded by Mike, question called with all in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:

Chair

Date